



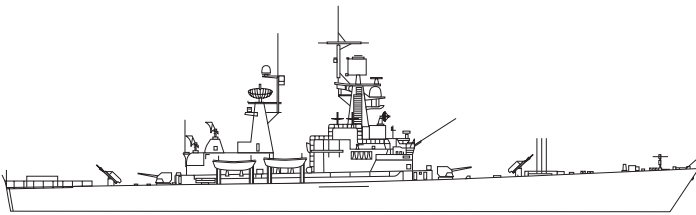
HISTORIA

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY, 1996

AMERICAN BATTLESHIPS TOPIC OF MAY MEETING



Our May meeting will feature a talk on American Battleships by Max Newhart, author of "American Battleships, A pictorial History, BB-1 to BB-71." Mr. Newhart will discuss the history of the battleship and in particular the Philadelphia connection through the Navy Shipyard. This promises to be a very interesting talk. Please plan to attend. The meeting is Wednesday, May 22 at 7:30PM, at the Northampton Cultural Center, adjacent to the library. Visitors are always welcome.



Need an old tub, sink, toilet, or accessory to go with them? Sharon Baetz helps her father, Robert Salevsky, in his booth at the annual Bucks County Old House Restoration Exposition. Mr. Salevsky specializes in vintage plumbing needs.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS STUDY ARCHAEOLOGY IN VIRGINIA

By ROSEMARIE BLUMENTHAL

Four Historical Society members who are also in the Historic Preservation Program at Bucks County Community College braved the last big snowstorm of the season in March to travel for the weekend to Williamsburg, Virginia, and study archaeology at three 17th Century settlements in America.

Sharon Baetz, Roe Blumenthal, Adelaide Crompton and Eileen Zolotorofe visited three early settlement sites: Jamestown Island, Martin's Hundred on Carter's Grove Plantation, and Flowerdew Hundred on the opposite shore of the James River.

The highlight of the trip was a lecture on March 9 at Carter's Grove Plantation by Ivor Noël Hume.

The former director of archaeology for Colonial Williamsburg detailed the discovery under his direction of Martin's Hundred, one of the earliest British settlement sites along the James River, as well as Wolstenholme Town, a homestead on Martin's Hundred that was destroyed in the Indian massacre of 1622.

Noël Hume is working on the final report of a project that began in 1969 and continued until 1983. "We got involved with this because Colonial Williamsburg wanted an 18th Century plantation," says Noël Hume. "Because after all, Williamsburg existed to serve the plantations. The plantations were the lifeblood."

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS HEAR TALK ON THE LENAPE INDIANS

An anthropologist studying the Lenape Indians lectured on "English, Swedish and Dutch Colonists Meet The Lenape" at the David Library of the American Revolution on April 18.

Sharon Baatz, Roe Blumenthal and Adelaide Crompton of the Historical Society attended the presentation by Marshall Becker, professor of anthropology at West Chester University, to learn about the local connection between the Lenape Indians and the European settlers in the area, particularly the Dutch and the English. However, Professor Becker's lecture focused mainly on the early Swedish settlers in the Pennsylvania.

"The Lenape had enormous food resources," said Professor Becker. He noted that each summer, the Lenape would settle in an area and clear acres of land, using wood for such uses as cooking, basket-making and netting. Once cleared the land was no longer useful to the Lenape, and the group would move on to another area. The Swedes arrived in the area in 1638 and quickly took advantage of these abandoned sites. They immediately built houses on the cleared land and farmed successfully on the fertile soil.

Professor Becker said the Swedes and Lenapes lived side by side in Pennsylvania during the early years, when the Swedish population was less than 400. However, the relationship between European settlers and the Lenape changed at the end of the 17th Century, when the English began arriving in boatloads of 400. It was this mass influx of British that caused the Lenape bands of Indians to begin shifting inward along Ridley Creek. When they realized they didn't have much land left, the Lenape went to Philadelphia for a "service tract of land bounded in the English fashion."

Unlike other European settlers, William Penn did not confiscate land from the Indians. "He began purchasing every square inch of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," said Professor Becker. "This may be the only state in the nation for which that can be said."

Penn went to each Lenape band and negotiated sales. It took him 20 years. Knowing the Lenape were always moving (one Virginia man referred to them as "unsettled ubiquitousians"), Penn granted them de facto land rights that allowed them to occupy the land.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to welcome Bill Smith to the board. Bill has taken over the Treasurer position previously held by Florence Leedom. Bill and his wife, Ruth, were original Historical Society members. They reside in Churchville and their home has been included in our past house tour's.

Our May meeting speaker is Max Newhart who will speak on the American Battleship. Our own Philadelphia Naval Shipyard was the birthplace of two of the Iowa class ships, the New Jersey and the Wisconsin. These ships are truly fantastic - 212,000 horsepower, 2 million gallon fuel capacity, crew of 2000 plus, quite impressive. I am looking forward to a very interesting talk.

Membership renewals are DUE! Please look at the address label on this issue of the HISTORIA. If it says 95 your dues are not current. Our treasurer, Bill Smith and membership director, Fred Holzwarth, will have a table setup at the next meeting to collect membership dues and to accept membership applications.

This issue of the HISTORIA unfortunately is the smallest ever. This is because of my busy schedule at the moment. As usual I need articles. Come on all you writers - you have all summer to jot something down for me.

The HISTORIA is on the Internet! If you have access to the Internet and the world wide web check out our site there (<http://www.resuba.com/bucks>). There is information on the Society, how to become a member, meeting dates, an online HISTORIA, as well as other Bucks County information.

This is our last meeting until the September meeting in the fall. I hope you all have a wonderful summer.



By the 1730s, the Delaware Valley was swollen with Colonial settlers and the Lenape Indians moved west to Oklahoma. However, Professor Becker noted that many Lenape stayed behind and merged into the Colonial population, farming and dressing like the Dutch, English and Swedish people occupying the lands. Professor Becker noted that the Lenape assimilated so completely and successfully that by the 1790 census their ethnicity was listed as "white."

ARCHAEOLOGY from page 1

“Archaeology, says Noël Hume, “is usually a matter of luck. Very rarely does anybody go out to find precisely what it is that they find.” Luck was on the side of the crew working at Carter’s Grove. “In the course of this search for the 18th Century we began to run into 17th Century features,” he says.

It soon became evident that there was another story to tell before Robert “King” Carter bought the land in the late 17th Century and named it Carter’s Grove. A group of small farms that had been known as Martin’s Hundred occupied this land in the early part of the century.

The archaeological team used very crude methods to excavate. They had tested the ground so they knew there was no stratigraphy left: the ground had been churned over by plows to the subsoil. So the crew dug tests holes by hand in the open areas and in the woods, then used a grader to strip the open areas.

Excavation was a difficult task to accomplish during a Virginia summer. “The ground, when you take up the topsoil, is solid, heavy clay,” says Noël Hume. “And in it, postholes and ditches and pits and wells and things like that. But it bakes hard like pottery in the summer. And very often the temperature would be 120 degrees. So we had to run hoses down from the mansion to keep wetting the ground, and then when it was wet you could see the color variations and scrape it.”

It was Noël Hume’s experience as a writer that solidified his interest in the social history.

“When I came to archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg I saw people looking for buildings. And what I said to them (and they didn’t believe it at the time) was the buildings were a frame for the life of the past,” he says. “And what the tourists really come to see is the life of the past. But the architects who then were in Colonial Williamsburg believed they came to see a cornice or a modillion.”

On the grounds of Carter’s Grove is Winthrop Rockefeller Archaeology Museum, an underground museum Noël Hume helped create. The museum, intended to blend into the landscape, introduces the visitor to what was uncovered during the many years of digging at the site.

Once the visitor is familiar with the archaeological history of the site, he or she exits at the other end of the building to the location of Wolstenholme Town, which is marked by fences and timbers.

“We felt that all too often, one goes to an archaeological site – it doesn’t matter where it is around the world – you walk around the ruins, and then you go to a little museum and see the sort of stuff they found there,” he says. “And that’s the wrong way round. You need to see what they found before you actually go to the site. You need to understand what they understood or how they worked it out: how this artifact relates to that, and that to another. If you can do all that before you go to the site, then you are infinitely better educated when you get there.”

PRESERVATION BRIEFS

The historic property behind the former Conti’s restaurant in Doylestown will be saved from destruction. An agreement has been reached with AMOCO oil to preserve the structure and turn it into offices. A gas station will be built adjacent to it on the property at the corner of routes 611 and 313.

The EXXON gas station in Richboro will reopen with canopies and a large sign, although not as large as they had wanted. Multiple use of the property was turned down, so it will only be a gas station.

The Atlantic station in Richboro was permanently closed in March. The owner moved the repair business to Ivyland. It is unlikely that the property will ever be a gas station again. Rumor is that the bank will extend it’s parking towards the corner.

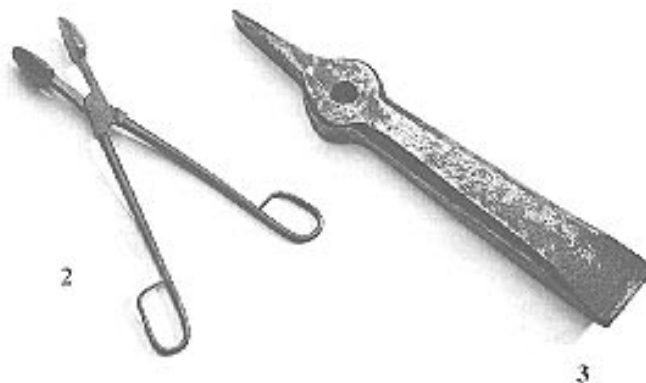
No new word on the Spread Eagle and AMOCO’s plans there.

A Bypass has been announced as a possibility in Richboro but at first glance it sounds more like a tax payer financed access road to enhance the value of property North of Second Street Pike in Richboro! Just what we need another shopping strip right in the middle of town.

WHAT IS IT?



1



2

3



4



5

6. Corn Huskers - The spoon-shaped husker was held in the palm of the hand. The other was held between index and middle fingers.

5. Buttonhole makers with picks.

4. Pig Catcher - This was fitted on the end of a long pole handle, a rope was run through the hole, and was used to grab the leg of a pig.

3. Dangle Steck - A Pennsylvania German word meaning "a dangle tool." The dangle steck was driven into a post or wood; then a scythe was placed on top of it and the scythe blade was serrated or straightened. The next step was to stroke the blade with a whetstone.

2. Curling Iron - Heated then used to create the old-fashioned spit curl.

1. Goffering Iron - used to press ruffles. The iron was removed from the holder, heated over the fire, and replaced in the holder to form ruffles in collars and cuffs. Dates from the late 1700's.



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NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

1996 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Doug Crompton	355-5307
Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Rosemarie Blumenthal	396-0485
Treasurer	William Smith	357-8831
Membership	Fred Holzwarth	357-4899
Ways and Means	Diane Amadio	355-6399
Social Committee	Doris D'Ardene	968-5507
Director - Past Pres.	Jean Gallagher	357-7833
Director	John Leedom	357-3121
HISTORIA Editor	Doug Crompton	355-5307
Send articles to:	1269 2nd St Pike	
	Richboro, PA 18954	

HISTORIA is published quarterly by the Northampton Township Historical Society. The Society meets four times each year at the Northampton Township Cultural Center, Upper Holland Road, Richboro. Everyone is welcome at our meetings. Meetings start at **7:30 PM** with refreshments, general meeting, and a featured speaker.

Meeting Dates for 1996

March 20	General Meeting	-	7:30 PM
May 22	“ ”		“ ”
September 25	“ ”		“ ”
November 20	Dinner Meeting		6:00 PM

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

PATRON:	Extra support for the society	\$35.00
FAMILY:	All members of one family	\$15.00
SINGLE:	Adult individual membership	\$10.00
SENIOR CITIZEN:	Age 65 years or older	\$5.00

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 1996 (January 1996 to December 1996)

Note - Applications received after October 31 will be credited for the following year.

This application is sent with all editions of the HISTORIA. Please check your mailing label for the expiration year.

Normal renewal time is in the first quarter of the year or when the March HISTORIA is received.

If your membership is current, please pass this application on to others who may be interested in our society.

Please consider a contribution of more than the minimum membership to help defray increasing society costs.

Send to : **Northampton Township Historical Society**
PO BOX 732
Richboro, PA 18954-0732

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

DUES ENCLOSED: \$ _____

May we count on you to serve on one of our committees ? : Y _____ N _____ MAYBE _____

Please give us your ideas for speakers at future meetings : _____

Would you be willing to write an article for the HISTORIA _____

Your comments and suggestions are welcomed : _____